

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 02824 301717Z
ACTION AF-10

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-----010955 301725Z /43

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2405
INFO AMCONSUL DOUALA BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 2824

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, CM
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS:DRAFT COUNTRY ACTION PLAN

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 2816 (B) STATE 147628 (C) YAOUNDE 2720
(D) STATE 139160

1. BELIEVE ON WHOLE AND CONSIDERING THAT THIS IS A FIRST EFFORT
REFTEL B IS AN EXCELLENT BEGINNING.

2. ON PARA 2 IN LANERAL SEE REFTEL A.

3. SUGGEST DELETION WORD NOT RPT NOT IN FIRST LINE PARA 2B.
ALSO SUBSTITUTION WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION OF STATEMENT QUOTE ACCORDING
TO GURC SOURCES, ALL PERSONS BEING DETAINED FOR POLITICAL
REASONS WITHOUT TRIAL WERE RELEASED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS ON MAY 20, 1977. END QUOTE. SUGGEST
YOU OMIT REMAINDER OF SECTION AND ADD QUOTE FIFTY OTHERS
WERE PREVIOUSLY RELEASED. END QUOTE (SEPTTEL THIS SUBJECT FOLLOWS.)
LAST SENTENCE SAME PARA SUGGEST FOLLOWING CHANGE: QUOTE COMPLAINTS
ABOUT ABUSES COMMITTED BY MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND POLICE
ARE USUALLY HANDLED ADMINISTRATIVELY, OCCASIONALLY, HOWEVER,
WITHOUT ASSURANCE TO THE COMPLAINANT THAT PUNISHMENT HAS BEEN
METED OUT.

4. ON PRESS, SUGGEST DELETING OCCASIONAL AS THERE IS
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GOVERNMENT PRESS CENSORSHIP.

5. ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION, SHOULD NOTE THAT POPULATION ALSO
ANIMIST AND THAT ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT AHIDJO IS MOSLEM, HE IS NO
LONGER REFERRED TO AS EL HADJ IN KEEPING WITH SECULAR CHARACTER
OF STATE. CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES THROGH-
OUT COUNTRY, INCLUDING MOSLEM NORTH.

6 FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, WITH RESPECT TO SMALL BRIBE OFFERED WHEN CONDUCTING IDENTIFY CHECKS, BELIEVE THIS IS PRACTICE IN MOST COUNTRIES IN REGION AND UNLESS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN EACH COUNTRY REPORT, DO NOT THINK IT ADDS MUCH. THERE ARE ALSO OCCASIONAL POLICE SWEEPS OF VARIOUS URBAN AREAS TO CHECK TAX RECEIPTS BUT THIS ALSO SOP IN REGION.

7 ON POLITICAL PARTIES, THERE IS NO LEGAL PROHIBITION AGAINST ANOTHER POLITICAL PARTY, ALTHOUGH IN PRACTICE THERE IS ONLY ONE. SEE ALSO PARA 4 OF REFTEL C.

8. ON TRENDS IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY, BELIEVE MENTION SHOULD ALSO BE MADE THAT DOUALA PORT ALSO BEING EXPANDED IN ORDER TO MORE EFFICIENTLY HANDLE EXPORT PRODUCTS WHICH MAINLY AGRICULTURARDAND BENEFIT RURAL POOR AND IMPORTS DESTINED TO HELP EXPAND ECONOMY OR ALLEVIATE DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS (PL 480 FOR CHAD).

9. SUGGEST REWRITE OF SECOND SENTENCE OF REACTION IN THE HOST COUNTRY TO "OFFICIALS OF THE GURC HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR APPROVAL OF THE US STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THEIR PERSONAL CONCERN AT VIOLATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ETHIOPIA,HGUINEA AND UGANDA" (SEE REFTEL C).

10. BELIEVE AT SOME POINT MENTION COULD BE MADE THAT USG
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OFFICIALS ENCOURAGED OPEN DIALOGUE WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS GURC ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN EFFORT SEGARE THEIR COOPERATION IMPLEMENRR CAP OR CEP AND SUPPORT EFFORTS BRING MOST FLAGRANT EXAMPLES HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS TO ATTENTION UNHRC AND OTHER APPROPRIATE FORA.
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